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ENG 2205-002: Intro to Literary Studies

Melissa Caldwell
Eastern Illinois University

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ENG 2205

Introduction to Literary Studies

ENG 2205.002 / Fall 2015
MWF 9:00-9:50 / CH 3290

Instructor: Dr. Caldwell
E-Mail: mcaldwell@eiu.edu
Office: CH 3050
Office Hours: MWF 10-12

Course Definition, Expectations, and Learning Objectives

English 2205, Introduction to Literary Studies (3-0-3), is “a study of fundamental issues underlying literary criticism and interpretation focusing on literary works, diverse critical practices, and historical backgrounds of critical strategies” required of English majors and minors and open to students pursuing other majors. Please note that the prerequisites for this course are as follows: ENG 1002G and, if you are an English major, ENG 1105, or ENG 1002G and concurrent enrollment in ENG 1105. If you have not fulfilled these courses for any reason, please talk to me at the beginning of the semester.

In class, your primary responsibilities include

- ...listening closely
- ...asking questions about the text or ideas related to it
- ...engaging in class discussion
- ...taking notes and following along in your text (which you have brought with you to class)

Outside of class, your responsibilities include

- ...reading and rereading
- ...preparing for class discussion by noting important passages in the assigned reading, looking up words and concepts that you are unfamiliar with, and preparing notes for discussion

A digression on the word “Introduction.”

An introductory class is an exciting kind of course: it is meant to build your familiarity with and interest in a given discipline. However, “introductory” should not be taken to mean “easy.” Do not allow yourself to get behind in the course and do not ignore any difficulties that you may experience. Even though this is an “introductory” course, it is hardly an easy one, and you may find yourself being asked to think about literature in new and challenging ways. I want you to know at the outset that I am absolutely committed to your success in this course, but ultimately you are responsible for your own education. You should consult with me early and often about your papers or any difficulties you are experiencing with the reading, and by all means bring questions you have to class and voice them. As you work on your written assignments, remember that I am happy to help at all stages of your writing process—from topic development to working through difficult passages to developing your thesis to constructing and/or revising drafts, etc. In short, when you need help, be proactive and seek it out.

Required Texts

~William Shakespeare,
Midsummer Night's Dream (first printed, 1600)
~Edith Wharton,
House of Mirth (1905)
~Nella Larsen,
Passing (1929)
~Daiva Markelis,
White Field, Black Sheep (2010)
~Poetry and other essays via D2L (see below)
~Mickics, *Handbook of Literary Terms* (2010)
~*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

- develop and strengthen your analytical reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills
- develop and use a vocabulary appropriate for literary criticism
- develop the ability to read texts contextually by learning about their literary, historical, and cultural contexts
- understand the relationship between form and meaning
- become familiar with and adept at using print and digital research resources available to you on Booth Library and scholarly websites
- engage in the kind of active and sophisticated discussion of texts expected of English majors and minors
- create greater awareness of peoples and cultures across time and place

Although critical thinking, writing, speaking, and research skills are key to your success as an English major or minor, they are also skills that are broadly applicable—indeed, essential—to your endeavors beyond the walls of Eastern.

Coordination with Other Section and Plenaries

Our class will be coordinated this semester with the other section of English 2205 being offered by Professor Beebe. The purpose of coordinating our sections is to ensure that students in the English major share a common set of skills for literary study, to give you an opportunity to meet and learn from more than one instructor, and to help establish a sense of community among students new to the English major.

Plenary Sessions: Frequently throughout the semester, our class will meet in joint sessions with the other section of 2205 in the Doudna Lecture Hall (Room 1210 Doudna Fine Arts Center). Attendance at these sessions is required. Please arrive on time and abide by the same rules of etiquette that you would in our regular classroom (for more details on those expectations, see below).

Technology and Classroom Etiquette

I highly recommend taking notes in this class—both reading notes and discussion notes. Doing so will enhance your understanding of the texts, prepare you to write your papers, give you a study sheet for your exams, and simply enrich your experience in this course. You are welcome to bring a computer or iPad to class to use for taking notes or in order to consult e-texts. However, you may not use it for anything not related to class. Cell phones have no place in this class. Please turn off or mute cell phones and do not text during class. Finally, I welcome email communications with you, but please treat written correspondence with me as you would any formal business communication.

Attendance and Participation

In order to succeed in this class it is *absolutely essential* for you do the reading, attend class regularly with your text in hand (preferably a hard copy written text and not an electronic copy), participate in lively and meaningful discussion of our assigned texts, and take notes. Your participation grade will be based on your contributions to class discussion and attendance. If you have any doubts about how you are doing in the class, you may ask me

about your participation grade at any point in the semester. In general, high grades (i.e., As and Bs) are reserved for those students who are well prepared for class and make meaningful contributions to class discussions on a daily basis; average grades (i.e., Cs) are reserved for those students who are prepared but who participate only on occasion or who participate regularly but not meaningfully; and low grades (i.e., Ds and Fs) are reserved for those students who are not well prepared and/or who make no meaningful contributions to class discussion and/or are frequently off task, disruptive, etc.

Attendance is crucial, and you can expect your final grade to drop by 1/3 a letter grade for each additional absence after your 3rd absence. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed in class, including but not limited to any changes in reading assignments or homework, quizzes, etc. Please arrange to turn your homework in as soon as possible if you miss class. If there is a reason why you must miss class for an extended period of time, you should consult with me early about your absences. I reserve the right to count you absent for behavior inappropriate and unbefitting a college classroom including, but not limited to, texting, chatting, or any irrelevant use of technology in class, reading materials irrelevant to class, consistent tardiness, sleeping, or any other behavior that is disrespectful to your peers.

If you miss class on the day of the final exam, you will not be permitted to make up the exam unless you can document an excused absence.

Quizzes, Homework, and Major Assignments

Detailed assignments for the major essays, poetry explication, the scene performance to be completed with *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, and research exercises will be distributed as those assignments approach. In addition, there will be homework assignments designed to help you develop your ideas for those projects. Quizzes and in-class writing assignments will be given without prior notice and may cover any material from the class, including assigned readings, concepts presented or discussed in class, guest speakers, vocabulary terms, research methods, etc.

If you miss class, you should check with a classmate or me to learn whether you missed an assignment. Homework that is late will lose 25% of its value each calendar day it is late (that is to say, after four days, late homework becomes an automatic 0). In general, essays will not be accepted late. However, you are allowed to turn in one essay one class period late without penalty.

Evaluation

Assignment	Weight	Final Grading Scale	
Participation	10%	90-100	A
Homework / Quizzes	10%	80-89	B
Poetry Explication (5-6 double-spaced, typed pages)	10%	70-79	C
Scene Performance and Written Analysis (5-6 double-spaced, typed pages)	10%	60-69	D
Essay 1 (5-6 double-spaced, typed pages)	10%	Below 60	F
Essay 2 (5-6 double-spaced, typed pages)	10%		

Revision Essay (5-6 double-spaced, typed pages)	10%	
Research Exercises (Ringuette Cup)	10%	
Midterm Exam	10%	
Final Exam	10%	

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). The English Department's policy on plagiarism states the following:

“Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism — ‘The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s original work’ (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*) — has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Office of Student Standards.”

To put this another way: plagiarism absolutely will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarists will be reported to the Office of Student Standards and will fail the course. If you are confused about plagiarism at any point in the semester, it is your responsibility to ask me about it before you turn in an assignment.

Information for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call [217-581-6583](tel:217-581-6583).

Other Resources

The Student Success Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call [217-581-6696](tel:217-581-6696), or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

The Writing Center

You are always welcome to meet with me during office hours to discuss any writing issues. However, I also encourage you to use EIU's Writing Center located at 3110 Coleman Hall. This free service provides one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. The writing center is open to help any student from any major at any stage of his or her writing process, and its system of one-to-one conferences demonstrates value and respect for individual writers, all of whom can benefit from feedback about their works in progress. To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929.

EIU Writing Portfolio

If you wish to do so, you may submit any essay longer than 750 words to your Electronic Writing Portfolio by the end of the semester. A successfully revised Essay 3 is an ideal candidate for your EWP submission.

*****Your enrollment in this course constitutes your agreement to the state of affairs outlined in the course policies listed above and in the schedule of readings below.*****

Course Calendar

Unit 1 ~ Why We Read & How: Close Reading and Literary Form	Mon, Aug 24	Defining what we mean by “close reading”
	Wed, Aug 26	R. Mead, “The Scourge of Relatability” (D2L)
	Fri, Aug 28	Plenary 1: “Close Reading Up Close” Meet in Doudna Lecture Hall G. Graff, “Disliking Reading at an Early Age” (D2L)
	Mon, Aug 31	Post-Plenary discussion Poetry, closed form (D2L)
	Wed, Sept 2	Poetry, open form (D2L)
	Fri, Sept 4	Plenary 2: “Close Reading Emily Dickinson” (Doudna) Bring Dickinson poems
	Mon, Sept 7	***No Class— Labor Day***
	Wed, Sept 9	Post-plenary discussion From observation to explication Poetry (D2L)
	Fri, Sept 11	Close Reading review In-class workshop on explication Due: First draft of poetry explication
	Mon, Sept 14	Research in English Studies Prepare sample Ringuette Cup questions for plenary
	Wed, Sept 16	Plenary 3: “Research in English Studies” (Doudna) Due: Poetry Explication (D2L Dropbox)
Unit 2 ~ Close Reading Fiction & Non-Fiction	Fri, Sept 18	Plenary 4: What is “literary”? Fiction and Non-Fiction Prose (Doudna) <i>White Field, Black Sheep</i> , pp. 1-9
	Mon, Sept 21	<i>White Field, Black Sheep</i> , pp. 11-100
	Wed, Sept 23	<i>White Field, Black Sheep</i> , pp. 103-175
	Fri, Sept 25	<i>White Field, Black Sheep</i> , pp. 177-205
	Mon, Sept 28	Nella Larsen, <i>Passing</i> , pp. 137-178
	Wed, Sept, 30	<i>Passing</i> , pp.181-225
	Fri, Oct 2	<i>Passing</i> , Act 3, pp. 226-242
	Mon, Oct 5	Essay 1 workshop
	Wed, Oct 7	Midterm Exam Review Due: Ringuette Cup questions (set 1)
	Fri, Oct 9	Midterm Exam
Unit 3 ~ Close Reading the Context: Reading Like a Historicist	Mon, Oct 12	Plenary 5: “Reading Like a Historicist” Wharton, (Doudna) <i>The House of Mirth</i> , pp. 25-66 Due: Essay 1

	Wed, Oct 14	<i>HofM</i> , 66-118
	Fri, Oct 16	**No class – Fall Break**
	Mon, Oct 19	<i>HofM</i> , pp. 118-229
	Wed, Oct 21	<i>HofM</i> , pp. 229-305
	Fri, Oct 23	Paper development day
	Mon, Oct 26	Conferences
	Wed, Oct 28	Plenary 6: Paper 2 Workshop: “Using Sources, Setting Up Your Argument” (Doudna)
	Fri, Oct 30	Workshop paper
	Mon, Nov 2	Due: Essay 2
	Wed, Nov 4	Revising your work (Revision assignment: essays 1 or 2) Due: Ringuette Cup Exercises (set 2)
Unit 4 ~ Close Reading & Drama: Producing an Interpretation	Fri, Nov 6	Plenary 7: Shakespeare as text <i>MND</i> , Act 1.1
	Mon, Nov 9	Plenary 8: Shakespeare as theater Meet in Lumpkin 2030 <i>MND</i> , Act 1.2
	Wed, Nov 11	Act 2
	Fri, Nov 13	Act 3
	Mon, Nov 16	Act 4
	Wed, Nov 18	Act 5
	Fri, Nov 20	Work on group projects
	Nov 23-27	**No Class – Thanksgiving Break**
	Mon, Nov 30	Work on group projects Due: Ringuette Cup Exercises (set 3)
	Wed, Dec 2	Performance rehearsals (Doudna)
	Fri, Dec 4	Performances (Doudna) Due: Shakespeare Project
	Mon, Dec 7	Performances (Lumpkin 2030)
	Wed, Dec 9	Awards day (Doudna)
	Fri, Dec 11	Evaluations, exam review, revision essay due
	Tuesday, Dec 15	** Final Examination ** 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m